AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract with the following:

The present invention is directed to a cross-reactive antibody that specifically inhibits or blocks mammalian Toll-like receptor 2 (TLR2)-mediated immune cell activation. The invention is further directed to an isolated nucleic acid or vector coding for the variable regions of the heavy and/or light chain of such an antibody. Also provided is a pharmaceutical composition comprising such an antibody, or a nucleic acid or vector encoding it. Further provided are methods of use of such compositions in the prevention and/or treatment of inflammatory processes or any other process induced by bacterial infection, trauma, or chronic inflammation, or for the prevention and/or treatment of bacteriaemia or sepsis.

Please replace the text describing Figures 7-9 on pages 20 and 21 with the following:

Fig. 7 depicts a FACS analysis demonstrating that T2.5 specifically recognizes both murine and human TLR2, while TL2.1 interacts with human TLR2 and an unspecific antigen from murine cells. FACS was performed using 5% NGS and 1 % Fcblock as blocking agents, with 5 ug/ml primary antibody (TL2. 1 and T2.5), and 3.5 ug/ml FITCGoat anti-mouse IgG (Fab) as secondary antibody.

Figs. 8 and 9 depict immunocytochemistry experiments demonstrating that T2.5 specifically recognizes both murine and human TLR2, while TL2.1 interacts with human TLR2 and a nonspecific antigen from murine cells in IHC analysis. Immunocytochemistry was performed as follows:

1, Seed 1 x 10^5 Cells/cover glass/ml/well on 24-well plate, culture overnight.

2, Fix cells with Methanol at -20 degree for 8 minutes.

3, Wash with PBS for 3 times (dip into 3 beakers containing PBS).

4, Block with 2% NGS (normal goat serum in PBS) at 37 degree for 20 minutes in a humid chamber (20-30 ul for each slide).

5, Incubate with T2.5/TL2. 1 (5ug/ml) in 2% NGS at 37 degree for 60 minutes in a humid chamber (20-30 ul for each slide).

6, Wash with PBS for 3 times (dip into 3 beakers containing PBS).

7, Incubate with secondary antibody (AlexaFluro546 conjugated goat anti mouse IgG, cat. A-11030, 8 ug/ml, Molecular Probes, Leiden, Netherlands) in 2% NGS at 37 degree for 60 minutes in a humid chamber (20-30 ul for each slide).

Option: Incubate with AlexaFluro488 conjugated Concanavalin A for cell surface staining (AlexaFluro488 conjugated Concanavalin A, cat. C-11252, 25 ug/ml, Molecular Probes, Leiden, Netherlands) in 2% NGS at 37 degree for 60 minutes in a humid chamber together with secondary antibody (20-30 ul for each slide).

8, Wash with PBS for 3 times (dip into 3 beakers containing PBS).

9, Dry at RT for 20 minutes in dark, mount in mounting reagent, observe with confocol microscope (LSM510, Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany).

Please replace the description of Fig. 16A bridging pages 22-23 with the following:

Fig. 16 A1-3:

A single chain (Fig. 16A1) and partially humanized TLR2-specific (hT2.5, Fig. 16A3) antibody was generated by subcloning of a mammalian expression construct in the vector pcDNA3. 1 within which expression is driven by the CMV promoter (Fig. 16A2). From the 5'end of the MCS a sequence encoding a portion of the variable heavy chain (base residue 1 to 450, see SEQ ID NO: 1), was followed successively by a linker sequence encoding 15 amino acids (Gly and Ser), a sequence encoding a portion of the variable light chain (base residue 61 to 396, see SEQ ID NO: 2), as well as the cds of the human Fcg (gamma) chain forming the 3'terminus (C terminus of the expressed hT2.5 protein) of the construct.